

## **Community Preservation Act Committee**

### **Fiscal Year 2002**

The Community Preservation Act Committee was established pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B and Article 9 of the 2001 Annual Town Meeting, following overwhelming approval by Amherst voters of acceptance of the Act with a 1% tax surcharge and certain exemptions. The Community Preservation Act establishes a fund for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space; for the acquisition and preservation of historic resources; for the acquisition, creation and preservation of land for recreational use; for the creation, preservation and support of community housing, and for rehabilitation or restoration of such open space, historic resources, land for recreational use, and community housing.

The Community Preservation Act Committee is charged with studying the needs, possibilities and resources of the Town regarding community preservation and recommending to Town Meeting expenditures from the fund.

The Community Preservation Act Committee held its first meeting January 14, 2002, and met bi-weekly thereafter.

The first several months were spent reviewing Chapter 44B, the statute establishing the Act and the Committee; discussing the procedures by which proposals should be reviewed by the Committee and reviewing procedures already in use in other towns.

The Committee then invited representatives of each of the interest groups covered by the Act – conservation, affordable housing, recreation and historical preservation – to present overviews of the services they provide and the status of their particular interests. The Committee then spent several meetings discussing the criteria or considerations which should be applied to each proposal and determined that the following should be considered in each proposal:

1. consistency with the Town's Master Plan or the Joint Capital Planning Committee's Five-Year Plan
2. the feasibility of the project
3. the urgency of the project
4. the population to be served by the project
5. the acquisition or preservation of threatened resources
6. the possibility of multiple sources of funding
7. the cost
8. the funding.

The Committee then held a public hearing pursuant to the statute to obtain input from the public and prepared its recommendations for Fall Town Meeting.

Peter MacConnell, Chair